MARVEL
LIMITED SERIES
5 of 6
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BEYOND
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PREVIOUSLY...

Transported light-years from Earth against their will to **BATTLEWORLD** are a bizarre collection of super-powered beings: the teenaged super hero, **GRAVITY;** former Avengers, **THE WASP, HENRY PYM** and **FIREBIRD;** second-generation super-villain turned movie producer, **KRAVEN THE HUNTER;** the queen of the hidden society known as the Inhumans, **MEDUSA;** the latest incarnation of the man/alien symbiote combination that calls itself **VENOM; THE HOOD,** a small-time crook recently gifted with big-time powers; and the amazing **SPIDER-MAN.**

A being with godlike powers known only as **THE BEYONDER** appeared to them, promising his captives that if they kill their enemies, he would grant "all you desire." Venom instantly accepted the deal, brutally killing Spider-Man.

After the crash, a mysterious cyborg named **DEATHLOK** convinced the group to head for an abandoned city. While on their way, Kraven discovered that Spider-Man's corpse had been following them. With ungentle persuasion from the Hood, "Spider-Man" revealed his true identity as the body-swapping alien known as **THE SPACE PHANTOM.**

Space Phantom then used the super-speed powers of **NORTHSTAR** to escape from the group. Dr. Pym, however, had tagged Space Phantom with micro-transmitters that allowed him to find "Limbo," the Space Phantom's extra-dimensional home.

Using a device of Dr. Pym's construction, the group entered Limbo, intending to lie in wait for the Space Phantom's return. But back on Battleworld, Venom has destroyed their only way out, stranding them in Limbo, perhaps forever.

Is the Beyonder's game already over?

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I CONCUR WITH THE SENTIMENT; IF NOT HIS VOCABULARY.
THERE'S NO WAY TO FIX THE DIMENSIONAL INTERFACE?
NOTHING THAT COMES TO MIND; NO.
GIVE HIM TIME. CAN'T YOU SEE THAT HE'S TRYING?
I'M NOT TRYING ANYMORE. THE GATEWAY WAS DELIBERATELY SABOTAGED FROM OUTSIDE.
KLUNK
I DON'T HAVE THE EQUIPMENT HERE TO REPAIR IT.
WHAT ARE WE STRESSING ABOUT?
SOON AS SPACE PHANTOM POPS IN HERE FOR A NEW BODY, WE GRAB HIM AND MAKE HIM TAKE US OUT.
ASSUMING HE WASN'T THE ONE WHO TRAPPED US HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

UNLIKELY. THIS IS HIS BASE, IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE FOR HIM TO HAVE DONE THIS.
EVEN SO, I SHOULD HAVE FORESEEN THE POSSIBILITY AND LEFT SOME OF US BEHIND TO PROTECT THE DEVICE.
THERE'S PLENTY OF BLAME TO GO AROUND HERE, JAN.
DON'T PATRONIZE ME, HENRY. I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY MISTAKES.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
AS IF YOU DON'T KNOW.
HOW MANY TIMES AM I SUPPOSED TO APOLOGIZE?
I DIDN'T ASK YOU FOR AN APOLOGY.
HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS PUT THIS ASIDE FOR THE MOMENT?
WE'VE GOT MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS TO SOLVE.
HE'S RIGHT. COME SIT WITH ME, CALM DOWN A LITTLE.

BEYONDER! WHERE ARE YOU? I'VE WON THE GAME!
THEY'RE ALL GONE! I WANT MY REWARD!
I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME!
BEYONDER?! PLEASE!
I WANT TO GO HOME...

I'M SERIOUS, MAN. LEAVE ME ALONE.
JUST CONSIDER IT. I'VE GOT THE CONNECTIONS TO GET THIS PROPERTY IN FRONT OF THE RIGHT PEOPLE. AND IT'S A SLAM-DUNK PITCH.
YOUR LIFE STORY IS BOX OFFICE GOLD! IT'S GOT ACTION, ROMANCE, PATHOS! BIG FREAKIN' EXPLOSIONS!
I...CAN'T BELIEVE... YOU WANT MY...MOVIE RIGHTS.
ARE YOU YANKING ME? YOU'RE A CYBORG AND A ZOMBIE. HUGE BOX OFFICE. IMMENSE.
HELL, IF YOU'D EVER BEEN A PIRATE I'D GET MY OWN STUDIO TO RUN.
KRAVEN?
CALL ME "AL."
GO AWAY, AL.
TRY AND HELP SOME PEOPLE...

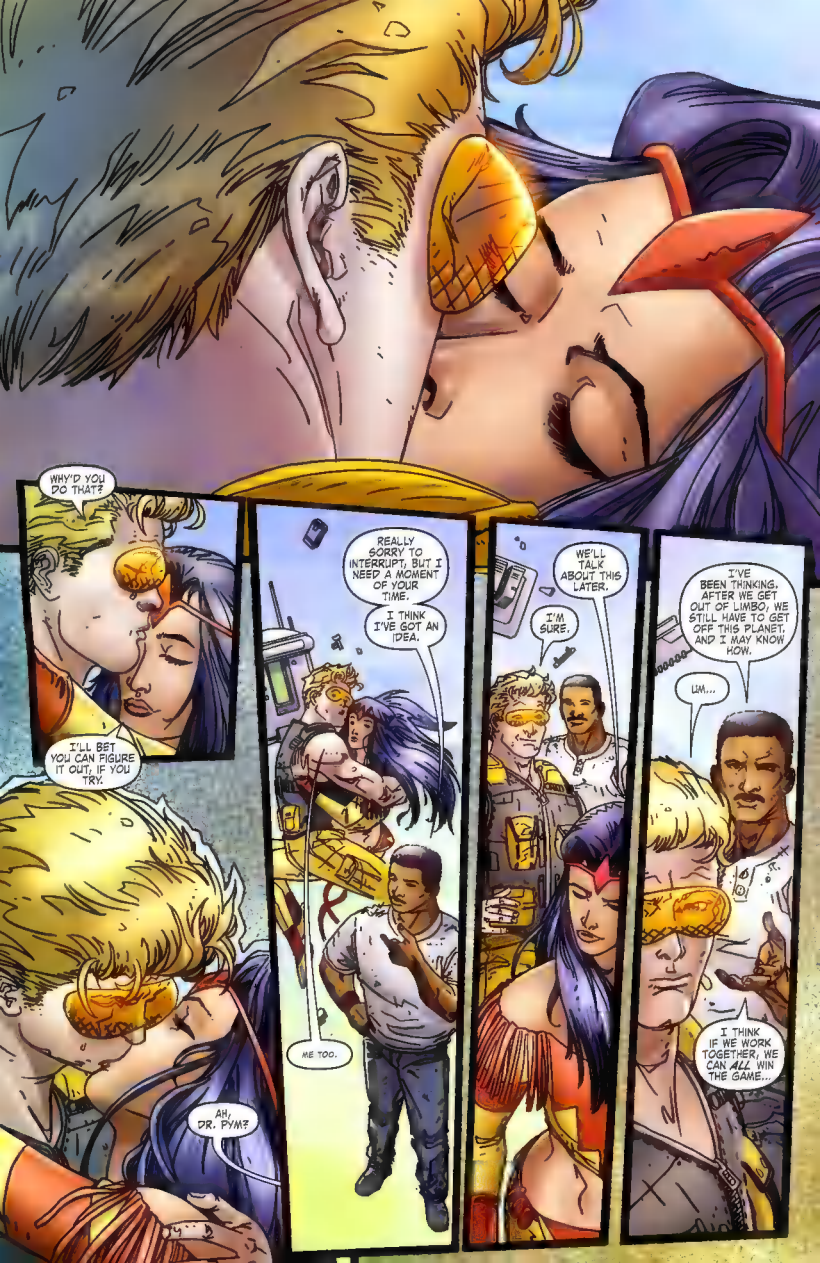
DON'T YOU EVER GET SICK OF ME WHINING TO YOU?
NO. YOU'RE A GOOD FRIEND AND AN OUTSTANDING MAN.
I WISH YOU'D TELL HER.
SHE ALREADY KNOWS.
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO LET THIS GO, HANK. YOU'RE BOTH GOOD PEOPLE...
...WE'RE JUST NOT GOOD FOR EACH OTHER.
IT'S OKAY.
I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO SEE ME CRY. I'M TIRED OF LOOKING WEAK.
YOU AREN'T WEAK. YOU'RE THE STRONGEST MAN I KNOW.
STRONG ENOUGH TO DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO TO MOVE ON WITH YOUR LIFE.
IF I EVEN KNEW WHAT THAT WAS...

WHAT YOU GOT THERE, FLYBOY?
NOTHING. NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
TUMP
C'MON, MAN. I ALREADY SAW SOME PICTURES. WHO IS IT. YOUR GIRL?
IT IS YOUR GIRL--
--SHE'S WAY HOTTER THAN YOU DESERVE.
NEW YORK STATE

CAN'T ARGUE WITH YOU THERE. I KINDA HIT GIRLFRIEND LOTTO.
IT'S NOT JUST HER LOOKS, THOUGH. SHE MAKES ME WANT TO BE BETTER, YOU KNOW?
I'M THINKING MAYBE AFTER WE GET OUT OF SCHOOL, I'LL ASK HER TO MARRY ME.
I MEAN, I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING TO HER YET, BUT I THINK SHE WILL.
WELL, SINCE WE'RE ALREADY PLAYING SHOW-AND-TELL, HER NAME'S SARA, MINE'S PARKER, BY THE WAY.
WE'RE EXPECTING A BABY ANY DAY NOW.
I KNOW YOU THINK I'M JUST A JERK AND ALL, GUESS I PRETTY MUCH AM. BUT I'M TRYING TO DO BETTER.
AND LIKE YOU WERE SAYING, SHE'S THE REASON WHY.
MOST OF YOU GUYS ARE PRETTY OKAY. BUT YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS: I'VE GOT A FAMILY. THEY'RE DEPENDING ON ME.
AND WHATEVER I HAVE TO DO TO GET BACK HOME TO THEM, I'LL DO IT.
NO HARD FEELINGS, BUT I'LL DO IT.

YOU'VE BEEN MARRIED TO BLACK BOLT FOR A LONG TIME.
ALMOST MY ENTIRE ADULT LIFE.
WHAT'S YOUR SECRET?
COMMUNICATION.
HE'S MUTE.
YES. AND I CAN'T OVERSTRESS WHAT AN AID THAT IS IN SETTLING OUR OCCASIONAL DISAGREEMENTS.
HANK AND I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM TALKING. SOMETIMES I THINK WE BOTH TALK TOO MUCH.
YOU'RE REFERRING TO YOUR SNAPPING AT HIM EARLIER?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO, IT CERTAINLY WASN'T THE RIGHT TIME FOR IT.
MY EX-HUSBAND IS A GOOD MAN AND I LOVE HIM.
"BUT"?
BUT WHENEVER I LOOK AT HIM, ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS WHAT HE DID TO ME.

HE ONLY DID IT ONCE. HE WASN'T HIMSELF WHEN IT HAPPENED. HE'S APOLOGIZED A THOUSAND TIMES.
IF YOU CAN'T FORGIVE HIM, THEN NO RELATIONSHIP IS POSSIBLE.
WHY SHOULD I FORGIVE HIM? HE *HIT* ME!
I DIDN'T SAY YOU SHOULD.
I SUSPECT IN A SIMILAR SITUATION THAT I WOULDN'T EITHER.
IT'S NOT FAIR TO HIM, THOUGH. WE'VE BEEN DIVORCED FOR YEARS, AND HE'S STILL FOLLOWING ME AROUND, TRYING TO PROVE HIS WORTH.
I'M RUINING HIS LIFE. I SHOULD LET HIM GO SO WE CAN BOTH MOVE ON.
THAT MAY NOT BE AS LARGE A CONCERN AS YOU SUPPOSE...


WHY'D YOU DO THAT?
I'LL BET YOU CAN FIGURE IT OUT, IF YOU TRY.
AH, DR. PYM?
REALLY SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT I NEED A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME.
I THINK I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
ME TOO.
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER.
I'M SURE.
I'VE BEEN THINKING. AFTER WE GET OUT OF LIMBO, WE STILL HAVE TO GET OFF THIS PLANET. AND I MAY KNOW HOW.
UM...
I THINK IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN ALL WIN THE GAME..

BEYONDER?
BEYONDER!!
SOUNDING A LITTLE HOARSE THERE--
--WANT A COUGH DROP?
RRRRAGGH!
KRAK
I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU. YOU REALLY GAVE THAT BOULDER A BEATING.
HOLD STILL!
DON'T
THINK
SO.

CALM DOWN, I'M NOT PLAYING THE GAME.
THINK OF ME AS SORT OF A REFEREE.
YOU WORK FOR THE BEYONDER? GOOD. TELL HIM I BEAT ALL THE OTHERS. I WANT MY PRIZE.
THEY MUST STILL BE ALIVE, OR YOU'D ALREADY BE TALKING TO HIM.
I'M TELLING YOU, I WON!
PLEASE, DON'T TRY AND CON A CON MAN.
IF YOU WON'T CALL HIM, MAYBE HE'LL SHOW UP TO INVESTIGATE YOUR DEATH.
FINE. IF YOU DON'T WANT MY HELP, I'M OUTTA
RRAAGH!

WELL, THAT WAS A BUST.
I'D HOPED I COULD USE VENOM TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER PLAYERS.
YOU DIDN'T NEED HIM--
--WE'RE RIGHT HERE.
AHHHH!

HERE'S THE DEAL.
YOU'RE GOING TO TRANSPORT US OUT OF HERE. THEN YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO SCREW WITH US AGAIN.
WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?
THIS IS NOT A NEGOTIATION.
HOOD?
YOU KNOW THE DRILL, PHANTOM. I REMOVE YOUR ORGANS ONE AT A TIME UNTIL YOU GIVE ME WHAT I WANT.
THIS ISN'T PARTICULARLY SHARP.
GONNA HAVE TO PUT MY BACK INTO IT.
TOTALLY MY FAULT.
I DON'T TAKE CARE OF MY THINGS THE WAY I SHOULD.
ALL RIGHT! YOU WIN!
I'LL DO IT.

"SOMEONE'S DOUBTIN', LORD. KUMBAYA...!
I'M CONFIDENT THAT SPACE PHANTOM IS FAR TOO INTELLIGENT TO ATTEMPT ANY DECEPTION.
THAT MAKES ONE OF US.
WE MADE IT!
MOST OF US DID. THE SONUVA&#%$@ DITCHED US.
THAT SURPRISE YOU? THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE YOU TURN IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD TO THE CYNICS' GUILD.
WELL, THERE'S CYNICISM...
...AND THERE'S COMMON SENSE.
HEY, WHERE'D SHE GO?
I'M IN YOUR EAR CANAL, SPACE PHANTOM.
DO ANYTHING OTHER THAN BRINGING BACK THE REAL DEATHLOK AND I'LL BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT.

FWASH
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
FIRST THINGS FIRST, "I GOT THE YO-YO."
"I GOT THE STRINGS."
AND HERE I THOUGHT PASSWORDS WERE OVERKILL. SPACE PHANTOM?
YES. HE LEFT YOU IN LIMBO AND TRIED TO TAKE YOUR PLACE.
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?
IT'S WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE. BUT I WAS BLUFFING WHEN I SAID I'D KILL HIM.
GLAD TO HEAR IT.
WELL, I WASN'T ENTIRELY SURE IT WASN'T YOU...
WE GOT COMPANY.
VENOM! I THOUGHT YOU'D DIED IN THE CRASH. I'D BE HAPPY TO REMEDY THAT FOR YOU.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOU, RED. DON'T YOU SEE?

HE'S FROM AN INCREDIBLY POWERFUL AND MYSTERIOUS ALIEN RACE.
THE COSMIC VOYEURS, RIGHT? I'VE READ ABOUT THEM.
BULLCRAP! THAT'S GOTTA BE THE BEYONDER. IT'S TIME TO PLAY THE GAME!
HE MAY BE RIGHT.
RRAGH!
SKREEEE
HANK! WHAT DID YOU DO?
WE HAD A DEAL! NO KILLING!
YEAH, WE DID.
GET AWAY FROM HER!

BUT I'M CUTTING A NEW ONE.
SKREEEE
SKREEEE
UNF!
?URK?
GET OFF OF HIM!
UNPH!